

**REMARKS**

By way of the foregoing amendments, original Claims 1-16 have been cancelled and new Claims 17-36 are presented for consideration. The new Claims are the same as the amended Claims presented during the international phase of the corresponding international application, except that multiple dependencies have been removed, the reference numerals have been deleted and the "characterized in that" language has been replaced with language more commonly used under U.S. practice.

It is requested that the application be examined on the basis of the changes set forth in this Preliminary Amendment.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: December 9, 2005

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